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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

December 13, 2013

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta,

Thank you for the support you and your agency have shown Oklahoma. Today I am writing in support of Enid, Oklahoma's pursuit of Federal Aviation Administration funding to extend the runway at Woodring Regional Airport to 8,000 useable feet.

Woodring Regional Airport, the City of Enid, and the State of Oklahoma are fully committed to this project, and significant progress has already been made. Today marks the beginning of construction for the road realignment component of the project, and the bulk of environmental compliance work for the entire project has already been completed.

Woodring's runway currently has a length of 5,638 useable feet. Enid has long planned to extend the runway to 7,100 useable feet, which is justified solely by Enid's civilian aircraft use. More recently, the City and State have planned to extend the runway even further, to 8,000 useable feet, to make Woodring capable of accommodating the military needs of the T-38, which are based at nearby Vance Air Force Base.

Fully extending the runway to 8,000 useable feet to accommodate the military needs of the T-38 is estimated to cost a total of \$5.8 million. While more expensive, the additional extension to 8,000 useable feet qualifies the whole project for substantial grant funding from the state of Oklahoma, which will support \$3.7 million, or 64% of the project's cost.

While the FAA does not generally participate in runway extensions for purely military purposes, the FAA routinely supports commercial expansion projects, providing funding up to 90% of a project's total cost. For many years, the airport's FAA approved Airport Layout Plan has included plans to extend the runway to 7,500 useable feet. If Enid were to commence this project, the cost would be \$3.9 million, and the City would qualify for about \$3.51 million in support from the FAA.

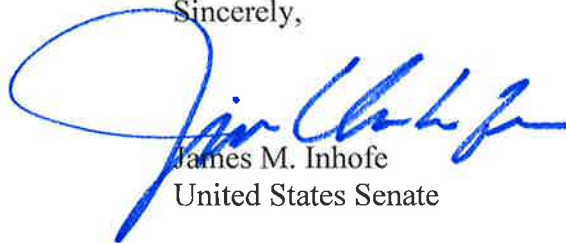
Presently, only \$450,000 in federal support is being directed to this project via the airport's annual Non-Primary Entitlement grant. Without additional federal assistance from FAA, the City would bear a disproportionately large share of the project's cost when compared to similar projects around the country. With this in mind, I would like voice my strong support for the City's request that FAA provide an additional \$1 million for the project. By providing additional support, FAA would support 37% of the commercially justified portion of the project,

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providing significant savings for the FAA, enabling it to target its limited resources on other projects. This would leave the City with a participation rate of about 10% of the project's cost, consistent with other aviation infrastructure improvement projects around the country.

Prioritizing funding for this project could ultimately save tax payer dollars up to \$2 million on Woodring's commercially justifiable infrastructure needs. It will also significantly boost Enid's economic development capabilities. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this request. Should your staff have further questions, please contact me or Luke Holland in my Washington D.C. office at (202) 224-4721.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senate